



LONGCROFT

— SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE —

NEWS LETTER



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“I wish I didn’t have to go. This is a wonderful school. I’d love to come again. So many of your pupils have the ability to be writers.”

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Celebrated Author Saviour Pirotta Visits Longcroft

It’s a special day when a famous children’s writer visits Longcroft enroute to collecting a writing prize and tells you that your school is ‘wonderful’.

On Tuesday morning Saviour Pirotta came to talk to the whole of Year 7 in the Theatre, an apt venue for such a gifted storyteller with excellent performance skills! He was due to collect the Fiction Express Award for his book Pandora’s Box at a ceremony in London later in the day, but was in no rush to leave.



"I wish I didn't have to go. This is a wonderful school. I'd love to come again. So many of your pupils have the ability to be writers."

Saviour's a very busy man. He's written over a hundred books but is best known for the bestselling *The Orchard Book of First Greek Myths* and his *Ancient Greek Mysteries Series* for Bloomsbury. Like the gods and goddesses that populate his fiction he is a larger-than-life character: full of mischief, funny, and very wise. Our pupils in Year 7 clearly thought he was very entertaining.



"He told really good stories off the top of his head," said Isla Addinall. "When he spoke about his granny on the exploding toilet it really made me laugh."

Year 7 pupils have recently been learning about myths, fables, folk stories, and fairy tales in their English lessons; meeting Saviour was a huge hit with them. Following his talk, he treated them to a wonderful creative writing workshop where they learnt how to write their own stories steps:

"The first step is to come up with a main character and give them a problem. If you don't have a problem, you don't have a story. If you are stuck for ideas, look in a newspaper. Newspapers are full of problems."

Saviour went on to explain the importance of finding a solution and coming up with ideas in the plot to bring about a happy ending. But how does he come up with his ideas?

"I go to special places, like mosques or castles, and try to imagine what type of people would have lived there in the past. I'm obsessed with ancient Greece. Years ago, I went to Poros to visit the Temple of Poseidon and get inspiration. Old objects really fascinate me too. Do you know where the ancient Greeks used to keep their money? Yes, in their mouths. If they were attacked on the way to market, they could swallow it."

Saviour also uses a notebook which he carries with him constantly to record his ideas and thoughts, and even write down other people's conversations.

"I'm a terrible eavesdropper. Luckily, I've only ever been caught once on a ferry leaving Athens. It was this big man, six feet six inches tall, he had a snake tattoo across his face, and pink Dr Martens and looked terrifying."

He saw me scribbling away and asked if I was writing about him. I confirmed I was, and said I hoped he didn't mind. It was just that he looked like Prince Theseus. In fact, I made him into a monster, the Minotaur!"

Several pupils were inspired to write stories that featured mythical characters undergoing extraordinary feats and challenges too. These were shared in a showcase at the end of the morning. It was lovely to see pupils grow in confidence as they proudly read out their stories. Pupils certainly learnt from Saviour's methods.



"He was really good at explaining how to write a story," said Harvey Bleasby.

Saviour now sells his books around the world. They are particularly successful in the UK, Greece, Italy and South Korea. However, when he first came to England 42 years ago from Malta success was not immediate. Indeed, he found himself living homeless for a time in a park in Shepherds Bush in London. And desperate to become a writer:

"Writing stories is the only thing I've ever been good at. I'm rubbish at everything else."

Luckily for Saviour, a good Samaritan introduced him to a top publisher who got him his first writing job, working for Barbie magazine. He then got work on the BBC children's series Teletubbies, and later started to write books, initially mainly non-fiction. Now he is firmly established as a very successful author of children's stories and has won several awards in the UK and USA.

Saviour's ambition to become a writer was mocked at when he was a child, but he has not let that deter him and was full of wise words for our Year 7 pupils.

"Everybody laughed when I said I wanted to be a writer, but whatever your dream is, stick to. Anything worth achieving is hard. Don't let anyone put you off."

A huge thank you to Saviour for visiting our school and to Mrs Foster and the English and Library teams for supporting this wonderful event.

If you would like to order a signed copy of one of Saviour's books they will be on ParentPay after the Easter holiday.





First Story Book Cover Design Competition

The title for our next Longcroft First Story Anthology will be

'Portholes'.



The title is inspired by the round windows in the school library and a collaborative poem the First Story cohort have written.

Can you design a book cover based on the title?

The writings in our anthology reflect on nature, family, relationships, and how it feels to be alive in 2023.

Please submit your designs to Ms Carvill in the Library or your Art teacher by Friday 21st April 2023.

The prize will be to have your design professionally published.

If you are a serious artist, this is a great first step in a career in art.



Reward Totals

So far this term our pupils have been awarded the following rewards for acting with Great Heart, Thought and Vision:



Acts of Great

HEART 67,573

THOUGHT 300,386

VISION 267,488

GRAND

TOTAL:

635,447





Headteacher's Welcome

Our values are that which define us, that underpin our actions and our interactions. At Longcroft this week we have seen much to demonstrate Great Heart, Thought and Vision across our community.

We have received an incredible response to our Turkey/ Syria Earthquake appeal with every tutor group producing shoe boxes filled with toys, gifts and practical items. These will be processed locally and sent at the earliest opportunity to support the huge numbers of children impacted by the disaster. Pupils from across the school have also run bake sales to generate money to support this and two other selected charities; Comic Relief and The Teenage Cancer Trust. All of these great causes were chosen by our young people and have special meaning within our community. It has been heartening to see and hear the response of our children, who have demonstrated great compassion and care for others both close to home and across the world.

On Monday this week we took all of Year 11 to Hull University for our second Longcroft Revision and Study Skills Conference. It was an amazing event and our pupils represented themselves and the school exceptionally well. We explored research informed revision strategies and gave pupils the opportunity to experience seminars as well as time to rehearse what they had learned. Hearing pupils reflect on their future plans and articulate their commitment to realising their ambitions was hugely encouraging and we are with them every step of the way.

On Tuesday we welcomed an amazing author for a writing workshop with Year 7. A captivating speaker and fascinating person, Saviour Pirotta was an inspiration to our pupils and it was a privilege for him to visit the school. He was very complementary about Longcroft and our pupils, and despite being due in London to receive a literary award later in the evening was in no rush to leave. Huge thanks go to our Literacy and English teams for organising and supporting the day, which was closely followed by a trip

to Cambridge University on Thursday for the First Story Festival. There will be more to follow in the next edition of the Newsletter on this fabulous experience, but pupils from across the school were able to enjoy a host of performances and themselves perform in one of the most prestigious literary colleges and universities in the world.

As previously highlighted, this has been a busy week of trips and events with A-Level trips to Cranedale and our first trip to New York taking place. You will find some incredible pictures in this week's Sixth Form article so please do have a look at what our students in the East Yorkshire Sixth Form have been experiencing.

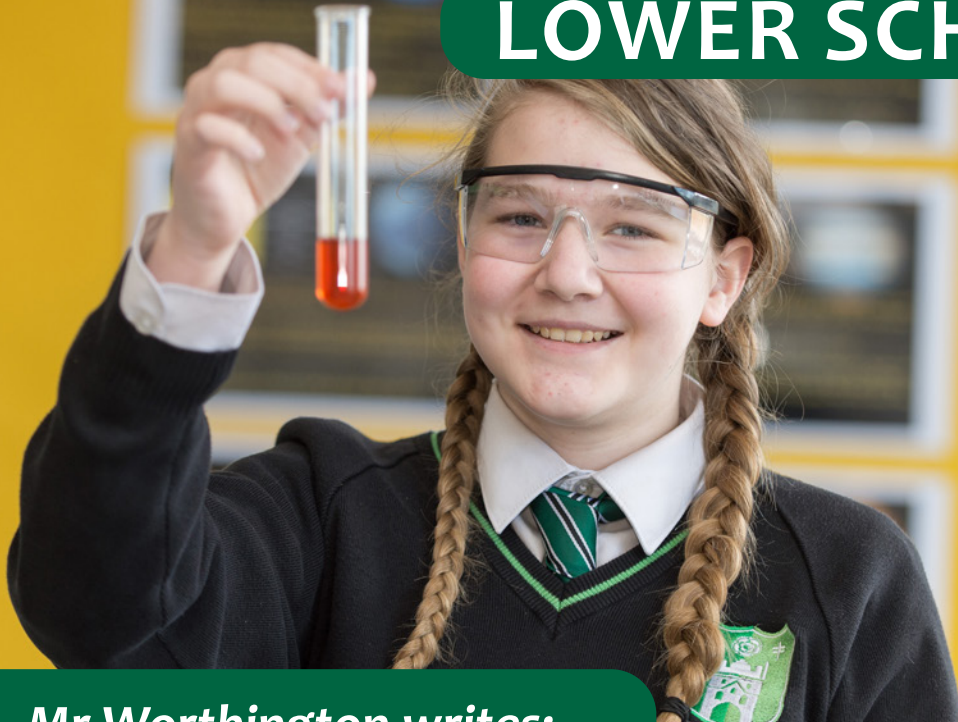
Our 'attendance challenge' has been an end of term focus for the school and what a great reaction we've enjoyed. So many of our young people received their 'golden tickets' and made their way to our rewards station for their Easter Egg at lunchtime. As a community we are all aware how important attendance is to a successful education, so it is great to be in a strong position currently compared to schools nationally. There is still much work to do and we will maintain a strong focus on attendance across the summer term. Thank you in anticipation for your continued support in ensuring children are in school, learning and enjoying the array of experiences on offer.

I wish you all a restful Easter and look forward to welcoming pupils and students back to school for the summer term.

Mr Perry
Headteacher



LOWER SCHOOL



Mr Worthington writes:

Pupils Enjoy Author's Visit

This week our Year 7 pupils enjoyed a workshop with author and playwright Saviour Pirotta. Saviour is known for his bestselling books that include an adaptation of the Russian folktale Firebird, his Orchard Book of First Greek Myths and the Ancient Greek Mysteries Series. While he mainly writes children's historical fiction, fantasy and retellings of myths and legends, Saviour wrote his first short story for adults in 2018 and also writes for the theatre.

Our children have been working this term on folktales, mythology, and storytelling. The visit complemented their recent studies well, working through the process of story mapping. The purpose of a story map is to allow pupils to understand and articulate the shape and structure of a story before writing.

Saviour said, "The children have been incredible this morning. I've broken the process down into pieces and they've really worked well." Saviour treated the pupils to some tales about his experiences of story writing as a child at school. Listening to him talk, the pupils were really inspired by the visit and what he had to say. Tilda, who had produced a really insightful, thought out piece, said she had enjoyed the morning and learning more about the story writing process.

In Key Stage 3, our English curriculum includes the study of English Literature and English Language. English Language is designed on the basis that pupils should read, comprehend and be assessed on their understanding of high-quality, challenging texts. In addition to this studying literature helps to sharpen analytical skills through the in-depth study of set texts and poetry. Our pupils have developed their planning and research skills as well as having gained knowledge of history, culture, philosophy, and human behaviour. In term of careers, employers often say that one of the most valuable things they look for in the people who work for them is good communication skills and this means writing and presentation as well as speaking and of course listening. It was clear from the visit that this was a really valuable experience for our children.



Netballers Finish Season in Style

A huge congratulations to the Year 7 and Year 9 netball teams who finished their season in style at the end of year tournaments. The Year 9 team came 3rd overall, narrowly missing out on the final by one goal! The Year 7 team came 5th overall, beating South Hunsley, Bridlington and The Market Weighton School which was a great achievement as they were up against teams with a majority of club players. Mrs Holt said, "Both teams have been extremely dedicated to training this year and have made an outstanding amount of progress; well done!"

Mr Worthington
Head of Lower School





Congratulations to our Lower School pupils on the number of ClassCharts rewards they are receiving each week. The pupils who earned the most rewards last week are listed below.



Year 7

Grace Helyard
Lewis Henderson
Eddie Pickering
Olivia Walker
Alex Matta
Marcus Lawley
Madilyn Duff
Evie Sugdon
Alysicia Leach
Charlotte Sutcliffe

Year 8

Xavier Jenney
Melody Smith
Keira Lamb
Mason David
Joel Davidson
Primrose Kilgannon
Lucas Edwards
Sadie Colclough
Ben Carlyle-Smith
Conney Drew
Lily Logan

Year 9

Lily Pepper
Freya Kelly
Anna Bruton
Hollie Calder
Joe Dawson
Elise Foster
Lucy Coombe
Matilda Smith
George Chambers
Madeline Collier

Every Monday, a pupil who attended every single day in the previous week is chosen at random to receive a £5 Amazon voucher.

Last week's winners were:

Year 7: Mia Robinson

Year 8: Amy Docherty

Year 9: Pippa Fergusson



UPPER SCHOOL



Mr Henderson writes:

What a sight it was to see our Year 11 pupils in new surroundings focused on developing their revision and exam preparation skills! With over 150 of our pupils at Hull University's impressive conference facilities, we enjoyed the Longcroft Year 11 Revision Conference 2023.

Pupils participated in seminars on evidence informed revision techniques, which included effective mind mapping and use of flash cards. Pupils were also able to discuss the revision they had been working on and consider any barriers they needed support to overcome, or ways to further sharpen and improve their approach. Pupils were also showing how they had made use of their revision target booklets, completed with their teachers.



During the day, there was an opportunity to take a tour around the main parts of the University campus and enjoy the facilities, to gain some insight in to student life. It was fantastic to hear about the hopes and aspirations our young people have, including for many a higher education route through a university. Pupils were able to see and discover how university students take full responsibility for their learning and actively seek out the library, often working in collaboration with peers – it was an incredible hub of activity. Pupils really enjoyed the day with responses such as: "It was key for us to know how to revise well." Charlie "Learning how to revise well and being able to focus on learning we struggle with was great." Lloyd



Easter revision

Thank you to all pupils for an amazing response to our Easter revision sessions; we have over 100 pupils booked into over 30 different sessions. It is a testament to pupils' maturity and growing understanding of the importance of the next few weeks to their futures.

Hold these dates

Please hold the dates of Wednesday the 19th and 26th April for the Walking Talking Mocks from 6-8pm. These evenings will give both pupils and parents an in-depth look at question answering skills and areas to really focus and develop on in the run up to the exams. Information has been sent out this week which includes how to book on both the evenings.

Organist Connor's Opportunity

An unexpected highlight of our visit to Hull University was the opportunity for organist Connor Procter to demonstrate his tremendous skills on the university's magnificent organs.

Connor said, *"It was a great privilege to be able to play the two fantastic organs at Hull University, and very much enjoyable as an organ scholar to play different variations of such a large instrument. The chapel organ is a small 2-manual organ in a room next to the theatre, and the Hauptwerk organ is a digital console. The Hauptwerk organ uses samples from other real-world organs. This creates as realistic an experience as possible when playing. It was especially fun to try out different stops (sounds) on both organs. It has inspired me to learn more about all the different types of organs and where I can play them. Thank you to Tony at Middleton Hall for the experience."*



Harry Demonstrates Practical Skills

We were delighted to receive more feedback and pictures from East Riding College where Year 10 pupil Harry Dawson is working towards qualifications in construction. The college staff are always extremely complimentary about Harry's work and his commitment, and this picture shows he is developing impressive practical skills – well done Harry!

Mr Henderson
Head of Upper School



Congratulations to our Upper School pupils on the number of ClassCharts rewards they are receiving each week. The pupils who earned the most rewards last week are listed below.



Year 10

Heidi Jackson	Alissia d'Andilly
Lydia Curley	Rhys Simson
Imogen Capes	Jake Curtis
Tristan Carlo Pineda	Katie Myles
Summer Mulvana	Hannah Woodhouse
Megan Ulph	Chantal Levy

Year 11

Charlie Dearing	Archie Watters
Will Seddon	Harvey Walters
Amelia Irvine	Soleman Ranjous
Layla Robinson	Lucy Bishop
Alex Skinner	Batool Ranjous

Congratulations to Charlie Dearing who managed to top the ClassChart points this week in Year 11.

Every Monday, a pupil who attended every single day in the previous week is chosen at random to receive a £5 Amazon voucher.

This week's Year 10 winner is Rhys Simson – congratulations Rhys!

This week's Year 11 winner is Peter Barrow – congratulations Peter!

Year 10 Over and Above Celebrations

Congratulations to the following pupils who have been identified by their teachers for outstanding performances. We will celebrate with them on Hot Chocolate Friday!

Luke Kitching. Please can I nominate for Hot Choc Friday. On Monday, he held the door open for me all the way from New Build to Reception. Very polite behaviour. **Mrs Shepherd**

Ed Brock, Jake Curtis, Eddie Barratt, and **George Steele** have been very helpful all year in tutor time handing out resources and sometimes moving tables. **Mr Fox**

Lucy Marham. A really determined and hardworking pupil who never gives less than 100% every lesson. **Mr Pearson**

Tasha Sharpe. Vision- constantly asking questions and being inquisitive in order to improve. **Mr Deer**

Rachel Tozer. Vision- Works incredibly hard and pushes herself each lesson! **Mr Deer**

Ella Harris Smith & Max Berry. Outstanding in fitness lessons this term. **Mr Cassidy**



SIXTH FORM



Mr Chapman writes:

This week, several of our Year 12 students accompanied by Mr Coupe and Miss Taylor, have landed in New York City! This a joint Sixth Form trip with fellow students from The East Yorkshire Sixth Form at Woldgate.

Whilst in the city they are visiting the Empire State Building, the Statue of Liberty and Ground Zero - the former site of the World Trade Centre.

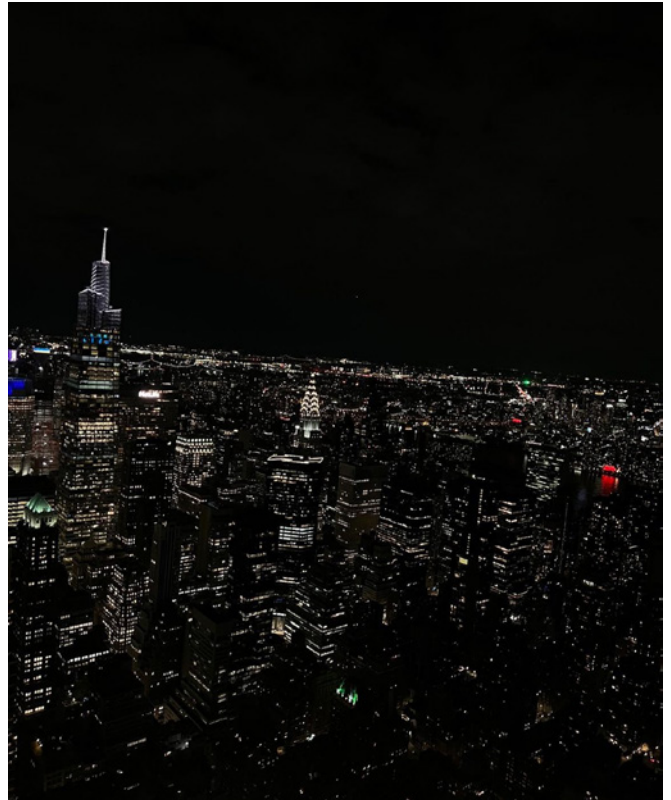
We have been receiving updates via the staff and students — some images are enclosed.

Mr Coupe sent back a message that they had just finished their first day in New York. He said: *"So far we have gone for a three hour walk into downtown Manhattan in which we had an amazing tour guide who took us to Grand Central Station and who also took us to see New York Public Library. We then had a tour around the Hell's Kitchen area where our hotel is as well as around Manhattan. We then went to the Museum of Modern Art where we could even see Klimt paintings and lots of modern art which left the students intrigued."*

They will return jetlagged but full of happy and amazing memories!









In the meantime students have been working hard in preparation for forthcoming examinations. Year 12 students will sit mock examinations during the week commencing 24th April while Year 13 start their final examinations in mid-May.

Students studying Chemistry are pictured during a required practical. Students oxidized ethanol to ethanal then separated ethanal from the reaction mixture using distillation equipment.

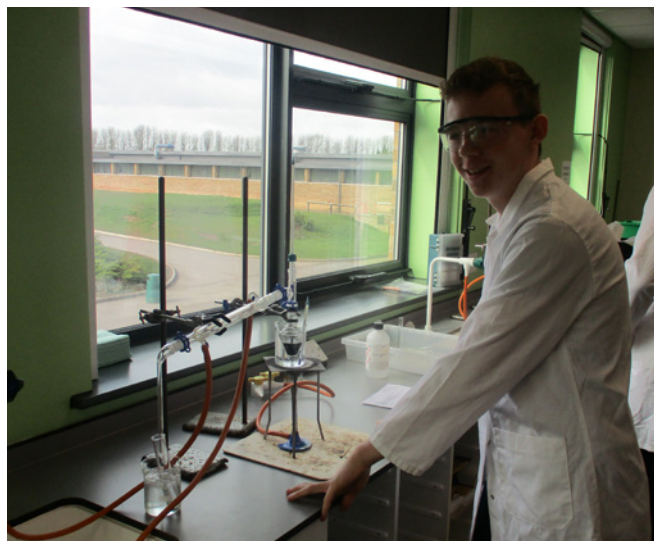
Year 12 student Lewis Wainwright studies Art and is following the theme of "Environment". Lewis has chosen to focus on animals. The images show a section of his work in response to the theme. He has studied and responded to a number of different artists including Paul Jackson, Robert Oxley and Carne Griffiths. Mrs Holmes said, "Lewis's work is vibrant and colourful and demonstrates his willingness to experiment with media and images."

Finally, our Year 12 Geographers completed their residential at Cranedale with Mr Davies and Miss Cookson.

Miss Cookson said, "The Year 12 students were absolutely outstanding at Cranedale this week. Both tutors and centre staff commented on their fantastic attitude, manners and behaviour. They were superb ambassadors for the school and I was so proud of them - it has been a pleasure."

This is certainly an exciting time to be a member of The East Yorkshire Sixth Form at Longcroft!

Mr Chapman
Head of Sixth Form





IN FOCUS

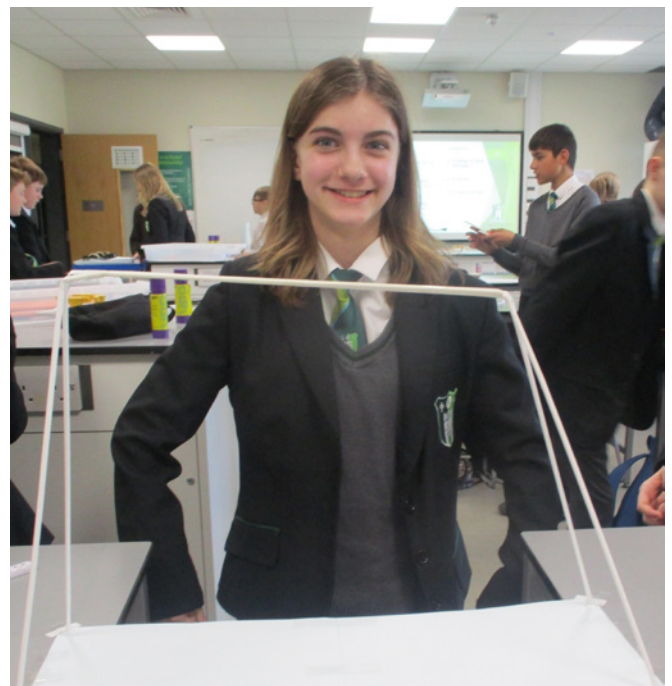
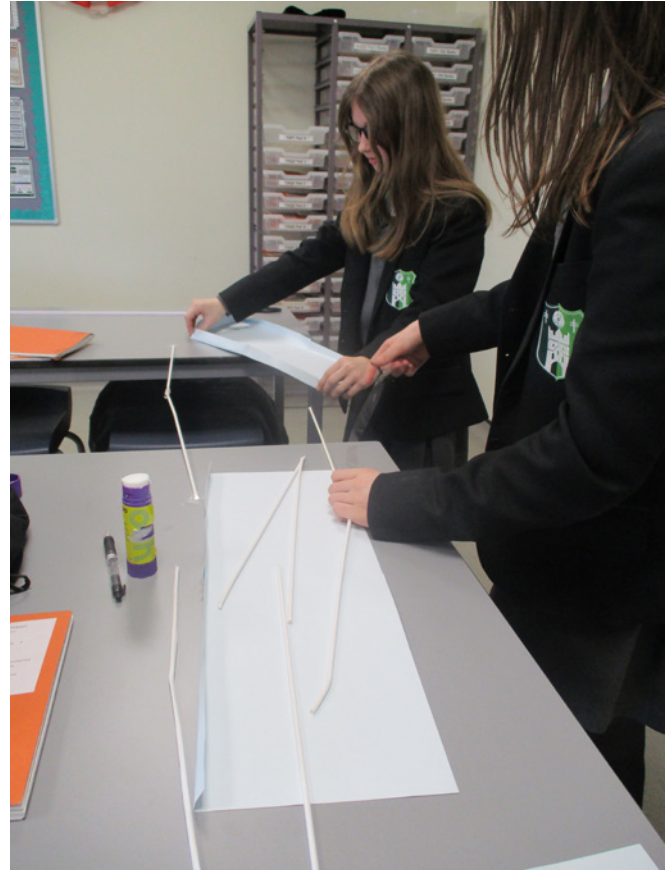
SCIENCE

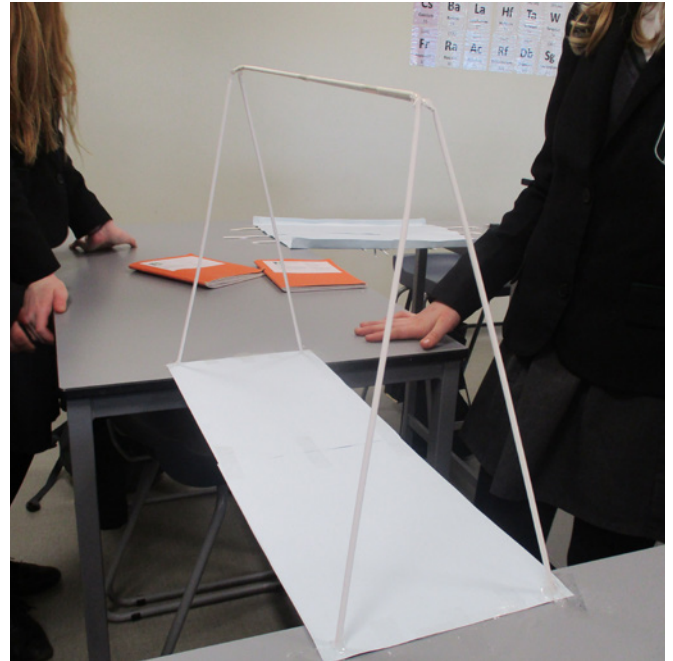
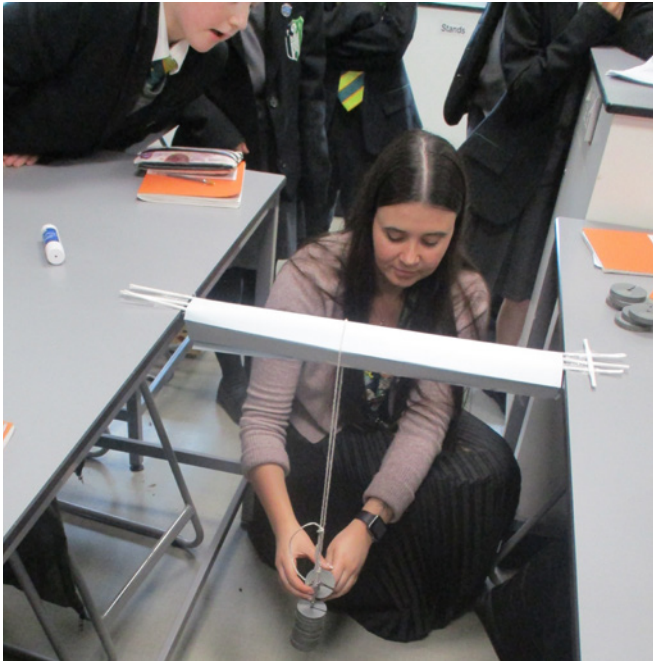
This week we feature work from Year 7 pupils in Science. Currently, Year 7 are exploring aspects of Science through project work with many opportunities to engage in practical tasks.

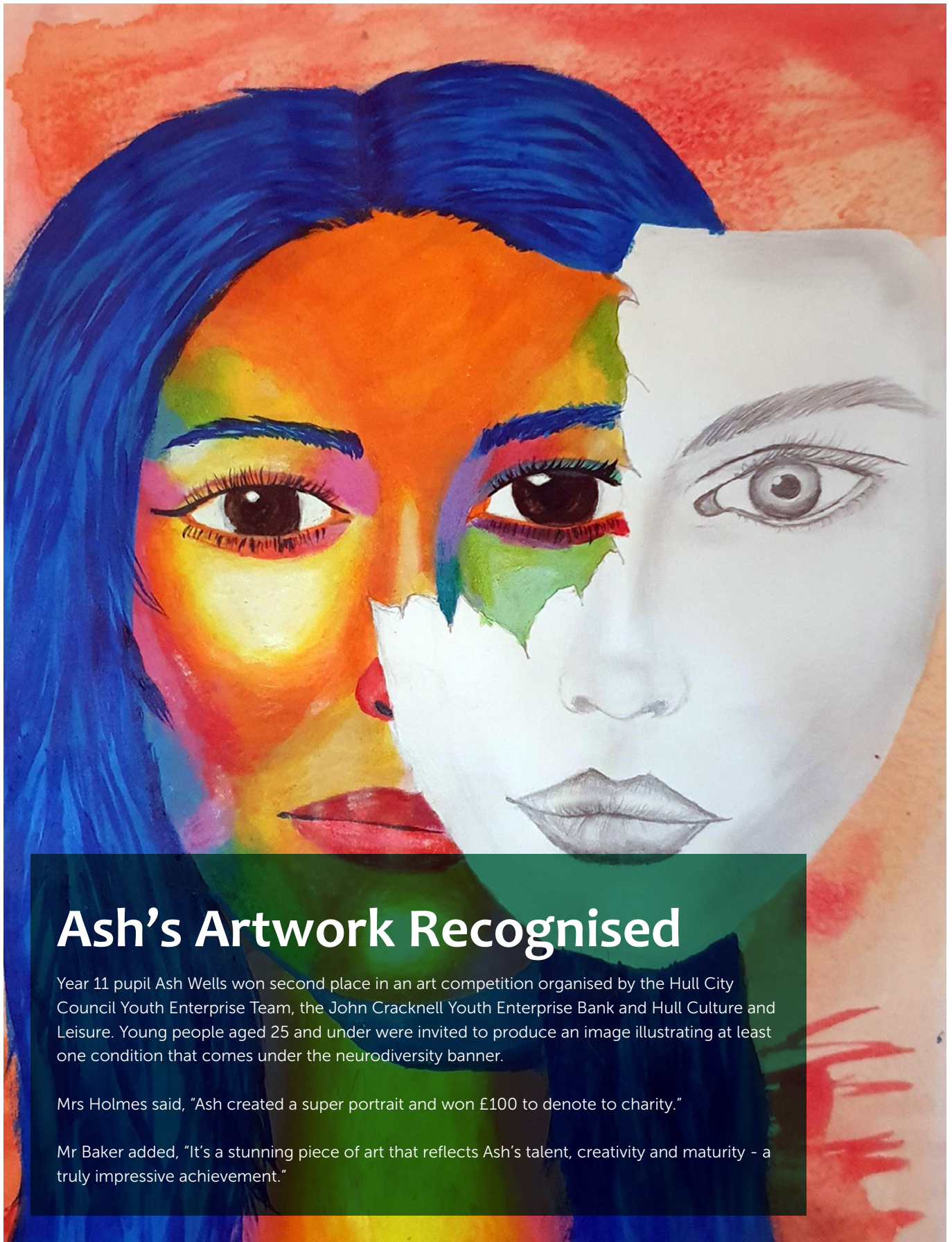
Pupils have been constructing their own bridges and seeing how much mass they can withstand before breaking. The activity is designed to inspire thinking about the connections between weights, forces and measures.

Pupils worked in pairs and small groups to build and test the best design for a bridge. Using paper and a small amount of tape pupils were allowed to cut, roll or fold the paper if they wished in an effort to find out which shapes would be the strongest.

Mr Baker said, "I saw three classes working and they showed creative and logical thinking – pupils also enjoyed the competition!"







Ash's Artwork Recognised

Year 11 pupil Ash Wells won second place in an art competition organised by the Hull City Council Youth Enterprise Team, the John Cracknell Youth Enterprise Bank and Hull Culture and Leisure. Young people aged 25 and under were invited to produce an image illustrating at least one condition that comes under the neurodiversity banner.

Mrs Holmes said, "Ash created a super portrait and won £100 to donate to charity."

Mr Baker added, "It's a stunning piece of art that reflects Ash's talent, creativity and maturity - a truly impressive achievement."



Millie Represents Humberside

Congratulations to Year 9 pupil Millie Berry who represented Humberside at the weekend in the prestigious English Schools' Cross Country Championships. Competing against the country's best, Millie had a great race. She improved by over 50 places from last year and managed to be the 3rd girl home from Humberside.

Millie said, "I did a lot better than last year. The course was a lot harder and really hilly. I'm pleased to have competed in the English Schools' Championships again."





Orchestras' Stunning Performances

We were proud to host the incredible East Riding Youth Orchestra and Senior Wind Band's Spring Concert in the beautiful setting of our Theatre on Sunday evening.

Their stunning performances included renditions of Movements from El Cid, French Military March and Wall of Sound – music to suit everyone's taste.

Thank you to everyone involved for a wonderful evening's entertainment!





Memory Lane

This week we take a trip back to 1996 and feature two of our teams of teachers.

Our Maths teachers are pictured, from left to right:



Back row:

Mr Velji; Mr Parry; Mr Rogerson.

Front row:

Mrs Lee; Mrs Watton; Mrs Freear;
Mr Higton; Mrs Viant; Mrs Botton;
Mr Watson.



Follow us on Twitter to
see more pictures from
Memory Lane

@SchoolLongcroft



Find us on Facebook

Longcroft School &
Sixth Form College



Our Humanities, or Geography, History and RE teachers,
are pictured from left to right:

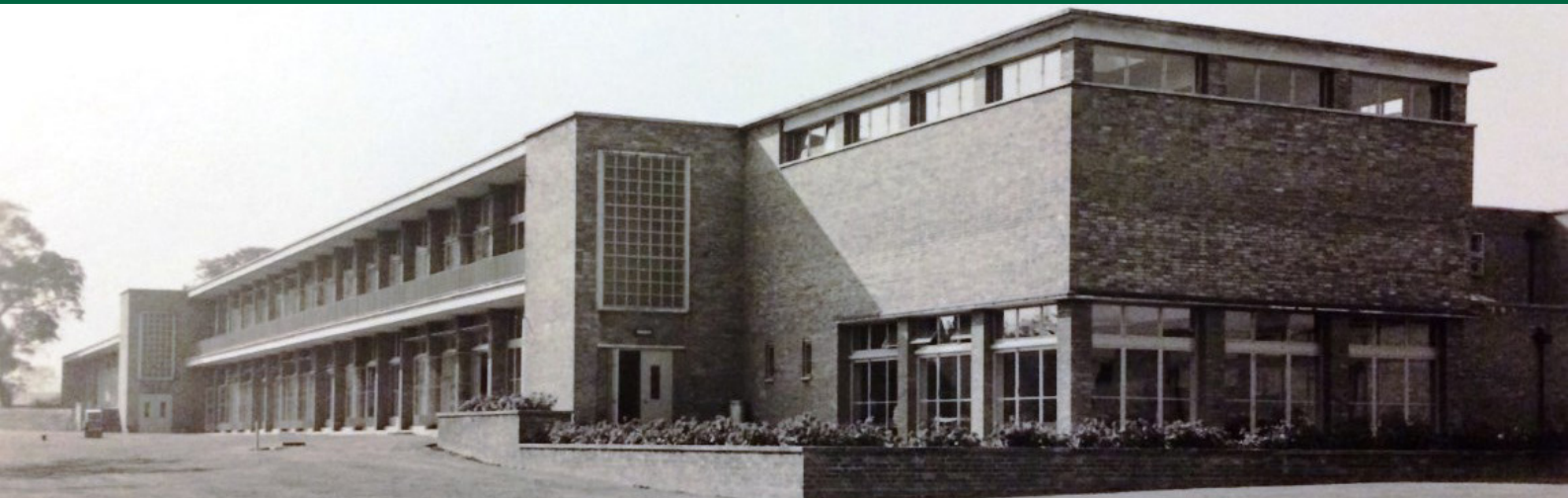


Back row:

Mrs Botton; Miss Parker; Mrs Howard;
Mr Caswell; Mr Twist; Mrs Southall.

Front row:

Mr Hansom; Mr Cutler; Mrs Ingham; Mr
Hoe; Mr Stephenson; Mr Curtis;
Mrs Beckett.





Care and Achievement Co-ordinators

Our Care and Achievement Co-ordinators work with specific year groups to ensure the welfare and progress of pupils and are the first point of contact for parents.

They support children to achieve academically by establishing a positive learning environment, visiting and working in lessons and supervising and supporting individuals and groups of pupils.

Our team, and their work mobile phone number which parents can use to contact them, are pictured below.



Year 7

Miss Fox

07342 342858

vicky.fox@longcroft.eriding.net



Years 8 and 9

Mrs Newsam

07827 587483

zoe.newsam@longcroft.eriding.net



Year 10

Miss Harsley

07810 416081

katie.harsley@longcroft.eriding.net



Year 11

Mrs Ellis

07900 394085

annette.ellis@longcroft.eriding.net



Sixth Form

Miss Taylor

01482 862171 ext. 1338

emily.taylor@longcroft.eriding.net